THE
# Dan Smoot Report

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DAN SMOOT

## VIETNAM AND THE SMELL OF TREASON

On August 24, 1967, the House of Representatives adopted two significant amendments to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1967. One was proposed by Representative Paul Findley (Illinois Republican), the other by Representative H. R. Gross (Ohio Republican). The Findley amendment suspended the most-favored-nation tariff treatment which our government now gives to communist Poland, until Poland no longer supplies war material to North Vietnam. The Gross amendment provided that no defense articles may be sold to or purchased from any nation which supplies our communist enemy in North Vietnam.

The Senate deleted these two amendments. The House-Senate conference report accepted the Senate deletions. On November 8, 1967, the House debated the question of passing the conference report. Representative Gross made a motion to recommit the report, to insist on restoration of the Findley and Gross amendments. In defense of his position, Mr. Gross said:

**"President Johnson has refused to take any meaningful action to stop the tens of thousands of tons of supplies our so-called foreign friends have made available to the North Vietnamese enemy . . . .**

**"It is unbelievable, absolutely unbelievable, with more than 100,000 casualties in Vietnam, including 14,000 dead, that nothing has been done to stop this flow of supplies. How many of these casualties resulted from equipment shipped into the port of Haiphong, the docks of which have never been touched? How can the U.S. Government tolerate and do business with so-called friendly nations that supply arms or any other sinews of war to the Communists of North Vietnam and still look our servicemen in the face, those who are still alive over there? What . . . [of] the dead, who lost their lives because of the supplies that have gone into Haiphong from profiteering foreign nations which pose as our friends? . . .**

**"I would not know how to answer those I have the honor to represent in Congress if I made no attempt to penalize those who glibly claim to be opposed to communism, who claim to be our friends, yet line their pockets with profits by supporting those who are killing and maiming Americans by the thousands . . . .**

**"I will not be a party to the degrading spectacle of Americans supporting foreign governments which permit their ships and suppliers to profit on the blood of Americans."**

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Speaking in support of the Gross amendment, Representative Charles Chamberlain (Michigan Republican) mentioned that of the 63 free-world flag ships arriving in North Vietnam during the first 11 months of 1967, 53 flew the British flag.

Representative Cornelius Gallagher (New Jersey Democrat) explained that the British flag ships are under long-term lease to communists and that Great Britain could stop the ships only by breaking the contracts — an unthinkable thing to expect the British to do.

Representative Gross said: "Can the gentleman [Mr. Gallagher] conceive that in World War II U.S. military forces would have permitted a ship of any country to land supplies in Germany, or in any other nation with which we were at war?"

Representative Gallagher retorted: "The fact of the matter is that we are not talking about World War II."

Representative Gross replied: " We are talking about a war in which more than 100,000 Americans have been killed and wounded."

In support of his amendment to suspend most-favored-nation tariff treatment for communist Poland, Representative Findley said:

**"As recently as July [1967], Polish officials bragged about the effectiveness of Polish arms in Vietnam. The Defense Minister said some of these were World War II weapons. On October 16 [1967], U. S. newspapers published photos of U. S. lend-lease weapons from World War II captured from Communists in Vietnam. No doubt they were part of the weapons supplied by Poland.**

**"The conference report suggests that this [Findley] amendment probably jeopardizes some U. S. commercial trade in Poland. This may be true, because higher tariffs would temporarily result. To me, this counting-house argument is totally empty compared with the jeopardy to U. S. lives caused by weapons from Poland."**

Liberals prevailed. By a vote of 205 to 187, the House (November 8) passed the conference report which deleted the Findley and Gross amendments from the Foreign Assistance Act of 1967, and authorized foreign aid appropriations of $2,674,614,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1968.

Did a great nation ever before subsidize the enemy it fought in a major war?

Criticism of American involvement in Vietnam, by communists and other subversives who want the Vietcong to win, makes rational commentary difficult. If one does not support President Johnson's position on Vietnam, he is usually branded as supporting the communist position. The fact is, however, that Johnson's position is as detrimental to the interests of the United States as the pro-Vietcong position is.

Constitutional conservatives have always felt that the American government has no business squandering the blood and treasure of Americans to fight wars for other people; but, once the government commits our men to fight a war, it betrays them and compromises the security of the nation when it imposes political limitations which give the enemy advantages, enabling them to kill more of our soldiers than would otherwise be the case, preventing our military forces from achieving victory — the only legitimate objective in any war.

There are now no easy answers to the Vietnam problem; but there is still a way out, which is neither the Johnson way nor the communist way. This way will be closed to us, if we wait much longer before compelling our government to take it.

Four issues of this *Report*, published in 1967, give the constitutional conservatives' alternative to what Johnson is doing in Vietnam, and to what communists want us to do:

(1) Here is a summary of "Why The Pilot Shortage?" *Report* dated June 5, 1967:

**In 1966, 1422 military pilots resigned from the U.S. Armed Forces. These men are quitting in protest against policies which send our soldiers into a war they are not permitted to win, imposing restrictions that make our air operations more costly to us than to the enemy. Captain**



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W. L. Keeling is one of the pilots who resigned in 1966. This *Report* is an abbreviation of an open letter which Captain Keeling wrote to members of Congress, explaining why he resigned, pleading with Congress to alter our collision course with disaster.

(2) Here is a summary of "Why Don't They Tell Us The Truth?" *Report* dated January 30, 1967:

**Simple truth seems alien to the White House in our time. Roosevelt lied us into World War II. Truman would say anything he thought to be good politics. The Eisenhower administration was caught lying about the U-2 plane over Russia. The Kennedy administration was caught lying about Cuba in 1961 and 1962. The Kennedys refined the practice of deceit into a political art, using it primarily to create a favorable Kennedy Image. Johnson continues the tradition, especially with regard to Vietnam.**

(3) Here is a summary of "Let's End Our Hopeless War," *Report* dated January 2, 1967:

**In 1964, President Johnson promised that he would never send American boys to fight for Asians in Asia. Two years later, there were more Americans than Asians fighting in Vietnam — some 385,000 Americans committed in an Asian land war that may last 20 years. The President's strategy is not to defeat the communists, or even to hurt them seriously, but to wear them down until they quit. On this basis, we can exhaust the manpower of America without even making inroads on Asian manpower.**

(4) Here is a summary of "Red China, The Octopus," *Report* dated Janaury 23, 1967:

**Chiang Kai-shek's army of 600,000 troops (trained, supplied, and equipped largely at American expense) is eager to return to the mainland and destroy Asian communist power at its source; but it remains idle on Formosa, because the U.S. government will not permit it to move. Meanwhile, Americans die in a hopeless war against Red China's puppets in Vietnam. Chiang Kai-shek should be encouraged to invade communist China, and we should bomb all strategic targets in North Vietnam. Concerted action of that kind would quickly starve and stop communist operations in Vietnam and elsewhere in Southeast Asia.**

The problem of American-Soviet relations is closely related to our Vietnam problem — so closely related that the smell of treason is in the air. Treason, according to the Constitution, consists of giving aid and comfort to the enemies of the United States. Our primary enemy is the Soviet bloc. The Soviet bloc nations supply the weaponry that kills our soldiers in Vietnam, and our government helps supply *them* the means to produce and deliver the weaponry. Various aspects of this extraordinary situation were discussed in 7 *Reports* published in 1967:

(1) Here is a summary of "Treaties With The Soviets," *Report* dated February 20, 1967:

**While the Soviets were developing an X-ray missile killer to protect themselves against our missiles, our government was honoring an agreed-upon moratorium on nuclear testing. When they had perfected their X-ray weapon, the Soviets signed a test-ban treaty, which now prohibits us from the nuclear research that may be necessary to save our country from destruction. Our agreements with the Soviets have always ended thus. Yet, our Presidents continue operating on the fatuous belief that we can negotiate meaningful treaties with the Kremlin.**

(2) Here is a summary of "Turn The Rascals Out," *Report* dated April 3, 1967:

**Senators who knew the U.S. could derive no possible benefits from the Consular Treaty while the Soviets would be greatly accommodated, voted for ratification. Senators who knew that public opinion was overwhelmingly against the Treaty, voted for ratification. The people should remember, and turn them out of office at the first opportunity.**

(3) Here is a summary of "Our Primary Enemy: The Soviet Bloc," *Report* dated March 13, 1967:

**The Soviets and their Eastern European satellites are still our primary enemy in Vietnam. The red Chinese give material aid to North Vietnam and have 100,000 troops there; but the Soviets and European communist nations supply most of the weapons that are destroying our aircraft and killing our men. Their ability to supply the enemy in Vietnam is accounted for**



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by the fact that they get aid from the United States.

(4) Here is a summary of "Building One-Way Bridges," *Report* dated March 20, 1967:

**At best, the President's efforts to build bridges of friendship to Soviet bloc nations is a policy of reacting to the shifting currents of politics and propaganda in communist countries, leaving them always with the initiative. When their line softens, we rush eagerly to oblige them with concessions; when it hardens, we stand rebuffed, anxiously awaiting the next softening. Administration officials say we are encouraging national independence in the communist world; yet they acknowledge that it is our policy to support Soviet dominion over a vast non-Russian empire that was conquered by force.**

(5) Here is a summary of "Trade and Treason," *Report* dated March 27, 1967:

**President Johnson wants an East-West trade bill which would enable him to grant special tariff concessions to communist nations. He has already altered the embargo list, thus enabling communists to buy U.S. machinery essential to their war production. But even with these concessions, the communists cannot buy all they want in the U.S. because they do not have the money or credit or desirable goods to offer in trade. The only way the President can stimulate trade with our enemies is to finance it with American tax money — and he is doing that.**

(6) Here is a summary of "One-Way Cultural Exchanges," *Report* dated April 10, 1967:

**Soviet Cultural Exchange missions in this country are spy groups whose job is to gather scientific and technical information; to propagandize the American public and institutions; to recruit Americans as Kremlin agents. American exchange students in the Soviet Union, selected largely on the basis of pleasing the Soviets, are allowed to see or learn nothing of value while there. Many are manipulated into disgraceful escapades, then blackmailed into working for the Kremlin. The Cultural Exchange Program is detrimental to our country, highly beneficial to our mortal enemy.**

(7) Here is a summary of "Saving The Soviet Union," *Report* dated April 17, 1967:

**Communism as a system of government was initiated 50 years ago in Russia by a bloodbath that should have doomed it to failure; but it has been rescued by the non-communist nation it considers its primary enemy — the United States. The Wilson administration made commercial agreements which enabled the Soviets to begin industrialization. The Harding administration saved the Soviet regime from internal rebellion by giving starving Russians food relief in the early 1920's. The Roosevelt administration saved the Soviets from Japan, and from internal rebellion, by extending diplomatic recognition in 1933. Roosevelt again saved them by aiding them when they were attacked by their former partners, the nazis. The Eisenhower administration saved the Soviets from rebellion in their satellite empire in the 1950's. Johnson's bridge-building schemes are saving them again. Communism would die of its own inner malignancy if denied outside aid.**

These *Reports* dealing with Vietnam and American-Soviet relations should be read, re-read, and distributed widely before the presidential primaries next spring. The 11 *Reports* summarized herein, together with the current issue, are available as a package of 12 *Reports* for the special price of $1.00.

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